National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Climate change, societal transitions and changing infectious disease burdens

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Abstract:

Human health is directly and indirectly influenced by the effects of climate change – air and sea temperatures, rainfall and more frequent and severe climate extremes. These effects do not impact on human populations uniformly, however, and this chapter looks at the interplay between climate and the different lifestyles that follow societal transitions, from hunting and gathering, through agriculture, industrialisation and globalisation. We illustrate the importance of considering such lifestyle effects by focusing on infectious diseases as a case study of disease amplification with climate change. The range and intensity of gastrointestinal and vector-borne diseases are likely to be altered as a result of climate change, and communities with different lifestyles will be affected differently. It follows that situation and societal-specific recommendations for public health interventions will be required, with our framework as a potential basis for considering these differences.

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Resource Description

Exposure : ☑

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Food/Water Quality, Precipitation, Temperature

Food/Water Quality: Other Water Quality Issue

Water Quality (other): Water temperature

Temperature: Fluctuations

Geographic Feature: ☑

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location: ☑

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact: ☑

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: General Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

Vectorborne Disease: General Vectorborne

Mitigation/Adaptation: ☑

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Resource Type: ☑

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article, Review

Timescale: ☑

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment: ☑

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content